5 AUG 1970

Vice Admiral Noel Gayler, USN Director, National Security Agency Fort George G. Meade, Maryland 20755

Dear Noel:

Thank you for your letter of 23 July 1970. I too hope that NPIC participation in the COINS network will make a contribution to the problems which confront us in the development of the system.

I regret that acceptance of your recommendation that we permit the Headquarters CIA system to operate eight hours daily in COINS at the TS, SI level would pose security risks which at the moment are unacceptable. I am advised that reconfiguration of our system to accommodate this without the current risk would take several months and possibly require additional equipment.

I have asked that a concerted effort be made to sort out our problems with COINS and chart a clear course for the future. I expect this to be accomplished within the next few weeks, after which we shall be in touch with you.

Sincerely,

10 Dick

F.ichard Helms Director

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FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, MARY LAND 20755

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23 July 1970

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The Honorable Richard M. Helms Director of Central Intelligence Washington, D. C. 20505

Dear Dick:

I am very pleased that NPIC will shortly rejoin the COINS network. Although the Center will be operating only in a passive mode, this is a good first step. Please extend my thanks to those involved.

In conjunction with this, I recommend appointment of a separate NPIC COINS Subsystem Manager and representatives to each of the panels and working groups, thus assuring effective liaison between my project manager and NPIC.

At this time also, I would like to reiterate our recommendation of 13 May 1970 that you grant a waiver permitting the Headquarters CIA system to operate eight hours daily in COINS at the Top Secret, SI level while concurrently processing sensitive proprietary data.

Though I can appreciate your concern about inadvertent spillage of your proprietary data into the network, our experience shows there are adequate safeguards. NSA has long operated the RYE system (the NSA computer system in COINS) for concurrent processing of SI, TK and compartmented SIGINT data — with no compromises.

I hope your reply will be favorable. If so, you should be able to operate full time in COINS by 1 August.

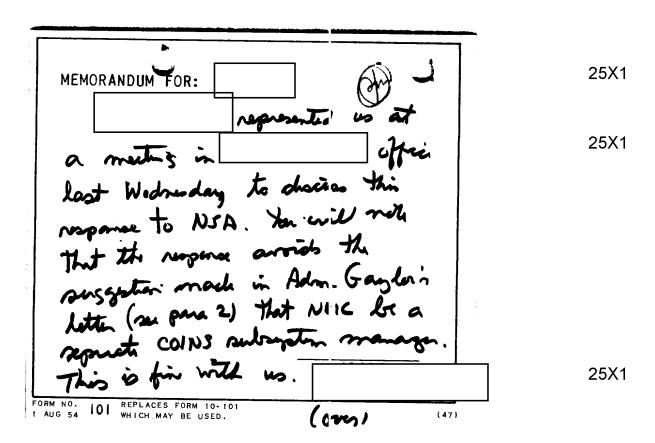
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